

CLAIMS:

1. A method for analyzing inventory information using time frames comprising the steps of:
 - determining estimated sales projections for one or more items in a particular time frame;
 - collecting sales data for said one or more items in said particular time frame;
 - analyzing sales data collected for said one or more items in said particular time frame with said estimated sales projections for said one or more items in said particular time frame; and
 - notifying an interested party or a system regarding any items of said one or more items in said particular time frame that have performed unexpectedly versus said estimated sales projections.
2. The method as recited in claim 1 further comprising the step of:
 - storing results of said analysis of said sales data collected for said one or more items in said particular time frame with said estimated sales projections for said one or more items in said particular time frame.
3. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein said estimated sales projections in said particular time frame are derived from sales trends and sales projection data over a time duration that exceeds said particular time frame.

1 4. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein said sales data for said one or more
2 items in said particular time frame is collected in a substantially real-time manner.

1 5. The method as recited in claim 4, wherein said sales data for said one or more
2 items in said particular time frame is collected by an on-line inventory.

1 6. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein said sales data for said one or more
2 items in said particular time frame is collected in a batch manner.

1 7. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein said particular time frame is adjustable.

1 8. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein said sales data collected for said one
2 or more items in said particular time frame and said estimated sales projections for said
3 one or more items in said particular time frame are analyzed by a statistical analysis tool.

1 9. The method as recited in claim 8, wherein said statistical analysis tool is a
2 Poisson distribution.

1 10. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein said sales data collected for said one
2 or more items in said particular time frame and said estimated sales projections for said
3 one or more items in said particular time frame are analyzed by an absolute comparison.

1 11. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein said interested party is notified
2 regarding any items of said one or more items in said particular time frame that have
3 performed unexpectedly versus said estimated sales projections by e-mail.

1 12. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein said interested party is notified
2 regarding any items of said one or more items in said particular time frame that have
3 performed unexpectedly versus said estimated sales projections by paging.

1 13. The method as recited in claim 1 further comprising the step of:
2 generating a report regarding any items of said one or more items in said
3 particular time frame that have performed unexpectedly versus said estimated sales
projections.

1 14. A computer program product having a computer readable medium having
2 computer program logic recorded thereon for analyzing inventory information using time
3 frames, comprising:

4 programming operable for determining estimated sales projections for one or
5 more items in a particular time frame;

6 programming operable for collecting sales data for said one or more items in said
7 particular time frame;

8 programming operable for analyzing sales data collected for said one or more
9 items in said particular time frame with said estimated sales projections for said one or
10 more items in said particular time frame; and

11 programming operable for notifying an interested party or a system regarding any
12 items of said one or more items in said particular time frame that have performed
13 unexpectedly versus said estimated sales projections.

14 15. The computer program product as recited in claim 14 further comprises:

15 programming operable for storing results of said analysis of said sales data
16 collected for said one or more items in said particular time frame with said estimated
17 sales projections for said one or more items in said particular time frame.

1 16. The computer program product as recited in claim 14, wherein said estimated
2 sales projections in said particular time frame are derived from sales trends and sales
3 projection data over a time duration that exceeds said particular time frame.

1 17. The computer program product as recited in claim 14, wherein said sales data for
2 said one or more items in said particular time frame is collected in a substantially
3 real-time manner.

1 18. The computer program product as recited in claim 17, wherein said sales data for
2 said one or more items in said particular time frame is collected by an on-line inventory.

1 19. The computer program product as recited in claim 14, wherein said sales data for
2 said one or more items in said particular time frame is collected in a batch manner.

1 20. The computer program product as recited in claim 14, wherein said particular
2 time frame is adjustable.

1 21. The computer program product as recited in claim 14, wherein said sales data
2 collected for said one or more items in said particular time frame and said estimated sales
3 projections for said one or more items in said particular time frame are analyzed by a
4 statistical analysis tool.

1 22. The computer program product as recited in claim 21, wherein said statistical
2 analysis tool is a Poisson distribution.

1 23. The computer program product as recited in claim 14, wherein said sales data
2 collected for said one or more items in said particular time frame and said estimated sales
3 projections for said one or more items in said particular time frame are analyzed by an
4 absolute comparison.

1 24. The computer program product as recited in claim 14, wherein said interested
2 party is notified regarding any items of said one or more items in said particular time
3 frame that have performed unexpectedly versus said estimated sales projections by
4 e-mail.

1 25. The computer program product as recited in claim 14, wherein said interested
2 party is notified regarding any items of said one or more items in said particular time
3 frame that have performed unexpectedly versus said estimated sales projections by
4 paging.

1 26. The computer program product as recited in claim 14 further comprises:
2 programming operable for generating a report regarding any items of said one or
3 more items in said particular time frame that have performed unexpectedly versus said
4 estimated sales projections.
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1 27. A system, comprising:
2 one or more POS terminals;
3 a data processing system coupled to said one or more POS terminals, wherein
4 said data processing system comprises:
5 a processor;
6 a memory unit operable for storing a computer program operable for
7 analyzing inventory information using time frames;
8 an input mechanism;
9 an output mechanism;
10 a bus system coupling the processor to the memory unit, input mechanism,
11 and output mechanism, wherein the computer program is operable for performing the
12 following programming steps:
13 determining estimated sales projections for one or more items in
14 a particular time frame;
15 receiving sales data for said one or more items in said particular
16 time frame from said one or more POS terminals;
17 analyzing sales data received for said one or more items in said
18 particular time frame with said estimated sales projections for said one or more items in
19 said particular time frame; and
20 notifying an interested party or a system regarding any items of
21 said one or more items in said particular time frame that have performed unexpectedly
22 versus said estimated sales projections.

1 28. The system as recited in claim 27, wherein the computer program is further
2 operable for performing the following programming step:

3 storing results of said analysis of said sales data received for said one or more
4 items in said particular time frame with said estimated sales projections for said one or
5 more items in said particular time frame.

1 29. The system as recited in claim 27, wherein said estimated sales projections in said
2 particular time frame are derived from sales trends and sales projection data over a time
duration that exceeds said particular time frame.

30. The system as recited in claim 27, wherein said sales data for said one or more
items in said particular time frame is received in a substantially real-time manner.

31. The system as recited in claim 27, wherein said sales data for said one or more
items in said particular time frame is collected by an on-line inventory in said one or
more POS terminals, wherein said one or more POS terminals transmit said sales data
for said one or more items in said particular time frame to said data processing system
in a substantially real-time manner.

1 32. The system as recited in claim 27, wherein said sales data for said one or more
2 items in said particular time frame is received in a batch manner.

1 33. The system as recited in claim 27, wherein said particular time frame is
2 adjustable.

1 34. The system as recited in claim 27, wherein said sales data received for said one
2 or more items in said particular time frame and said estimated sales projections for said
3 one or more items in said particular time frame are analyzed by a statistical analysis tool.

1 35. The system as recited in claim 34, wherein said statistical analysis tool is a
2 Poisson distribution.

1 36. The system as recited in claim 27, wherein said sales data received for said one
2 or more items in said particular time frame and said estimated sales projections for said
3 one or more items in said particular time frame are analyzed by an absolute comparison.

1 37. The system as recited in claim 27, wherein said interested party is notified
2 regarding any items of said one or more items in said particular time frame that have
3 performed unexpectedly versus said estimated sales projections by e-mail.

1 38. The system as recited in claim 27, wherein said interested party is notified
2 regarding any items of said one or more items in said particular time frame that have
3 performed unexpectedly versus said estimated sales projections by paging.

1 39. The system as recited in claim 27, wherein the computer program is further
2 operable for performing the following programming step:

3 generating a report regarding any items of said one or more items in said
4 particular time frame that have performed unexpectedly versus said estimated sales
5 projections.